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NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)  
February 1, 2010

Referring on a TV Asahi program yesterday to the victory of a candidate opposed to hosting the U.S. Futenma airfield in the recent Nago mayoral election, Okinawa Prefecture, Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada said: "(The Futenma issue) was a significant issue (in the mayoral election), but that is not the only issue. While taking the will of Nago residents into account, the government will make a final decision from the standpoint that this is a security issue." His remarks suggested he believes that the existing plan to move the Futenma base to the coastal area of Camp Schwab remains an option

Okada pointed out: "It is a great mistake to discuss the Futenma issue while regarding U.S. military facilities as nuisance facilities."

- 4) U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Gregson says U.S. will wait for PM Hatoyama's decision on Futenma relocation

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Full)  
February 1, 2010

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Wallace Gregson, who is currently visiting Japan, met with Governor Hirokazu Nakaima in Ginowan City, Okinawa, on Jan. 31 to discuss the relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station. According to accounts by the governor and other officials after the meeting, with regard to Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's plan to arrive at a conclusion on the relocation issue by the end of May, Gregson said: "If that is what the Prime Minister is saying, he will probably be able to do so. All we can do is wait."

Gregson also met with the mayors of the town of Kadena and other local governments hosting the Kadena Air Base (KAB) on Jan. 31. With regard to the proposal to integrate the Futenma base with the KAB, Gregson stressed that, "The U.S. side does not favor such a plan. The current plan that is being executed after a long process of negotiations with the Japanese government is the best option. We would like to proceed with this plan earnestly."

- 5) Foreign Minister Okada supports Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirano

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)  
February 1, 2010

When asked on a TV Asahi program yesterday about Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hirano's comment that there was no reason to take the result of the Nago mayoral election into account, Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada supported Hirano, noting, "His remarks went a little too far in a way, but he also said that the will of local residents is important. It is harsh to blame him for making that comment alone."

Okada then said: "Since the issue is a security issue, the central government must take responsibility for it in the end. Mr. Hirano is

of the same opinion."

6) Mayor of Oshino Village, Yamanashi Prefecture, reportedly positive on accepting Futenma relocation

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)

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February 1, 2010

It was learned on Jan. 31 that at an informal meeting with Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama on Jan. 30, Mayor Yasunori Amano of Oshino Village, Yamanashi Prefecture, where part of the Ground Self-Defense Force Kitafuji training area is located, made remarks that could be interpreted as an indication of his willingness to accept the relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station. This was disclosed by several participants in the meeting.

The remarks were made at an exchange of views between the mayors of Yamanashi Prefecture and the Prime Minister held in Kofu City. Amano said to the Prime Minister during this meeting: "You seem to be experiencing great difficulties. If this concerns the relocation of the U.S. Marines, we would like to cooperate." Hatoyama reportedly responded with: "I don't think it (relocation to Oshino Village) will happen, but if the issue comes up, I would appreciate your considering the possibility."

7) SDP leader Fukushima says SDP "will not allow" Henoko relocation

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)  
January 31, 2010

State Minister for Consumer Affairs, Declining Birthrate Mizuho Fukushima, leader of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), attended a meeting held in Tokyo to oppose the relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station to the coastal area of Camp Schwab (in Henoko, Nago City, Okinawa) on Jan. 30. She said: "It is impossible to build a military base in Henoko. The SDP will not allow it."

8) Defense chief tells U.S. current Futenma relocation plan difficult

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Full)  
January 30, 2010

Defense Minister Kitazawa met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Gregson and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Roos yesterday at the Defense Ministry and discussed the outcome of the Jan. 24 mayoral election in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, and its repercussions in connection with relocating Futenma airfield, a U.S. military base located in the prefecture. This is the first time that the Japanese government has directly explained the result of the mayoral election in a meeting.

Kitazawa referred to the Nago mayoral race, which ended in the election of a new mayor opposed to accepting the relocation of Futenma airfield. "The past fortnight has been quite hard," Kitazawa said. He explained that it will now be even more difficult to implement the current plan to relocate the Futenma facility to Nago's Henoko area. Gregson reiterated the United States' position that the current plan is the best one.

9) Ambassador Roos says China, DPRK remain threats in East Asia, Japan-U.S. alliance indispensable for regional stability

SANKEI (Page 8) (Full)  
January 30, 2010

U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos gave a speech at Waseda University in Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo, on Jan. 29 in which he indicated

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that China and North Korea remain threats to Japan and East Asia and emphasized that "the Japan-U.S. alliance is indispensable for

regional stability." With regard to the relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station, he said that the current plan agreed upon by the two sides in 2006 to relocate the Futenma base to the coastal area of Henoko is the "best" option.

Discussing security in East Asia, Roos stated: "Despite the end of the Cold War, the same level of risk (as before its end) remains."

With regard to China, Roos pointed out that while its relations with Japan and the U.S. are deepening in the economic field, militarily, China "has built up its cyber attack capability and is proceeding with the introduction of the most advanced nuclear weapons and submarines." He warned that North Korea "is the most militarized country in the world with an armed force exceeding 1 million." He said that a "collapse of the regime" brought about by a transition of power in this country, which is expected in the near future, is also a security threat.

The Ambassador also stressed that "the importance of Okinawa in terms of defense is increasing." He stated that the current Futenma relocation plan "is the result of a dialogue between the two countries that lasted over a decade, and it is the best option."

10) Roos: U.S. military's effectiveness will be affected if Marines are withdrawn from Japan

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Full)  
January 30, 2010

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Roos delivered a speech yesterday at Waseda University in Tokyo, in which he said the U.S. Marine Corps stationed at Futenma airfield and other bases in Okinawa Prefecture is "one of the most important forces" among the U.S. forces in Japan. "If there are no Marines in Japan, the mobility and effectiveness of our forces in the region will be affected," Roos said, indicating a negative view of relocating the U.S. military's Futenma airfield overseas and substantially reducing the presence of U.S. Marines stationed in Okinawa.

Roos cited a threat to the security environment of Japan as a reason for the necessity of the U.S. military presence in Japan, pointing in particular to North Korea, which has been developing nuclear weapons, as "the most immediate concern." He noted "growing concern" about the possibility of the North Korean regime collapsing in connection with a power succession (from North Korea's General Secretary Kim Jong Il).

11) Roos stresses need for Okinawa Marines

ASAHI (Page 8) (Full)  
January 30, 2010

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Roos delivered a speech yesterday at Waseda University in Tokyo, in which he emphasized the necessity of continuing the presence of U.S. Marines in Okinawa. "If the Marines are all withdrawn from Japan, their mobility will be impaired," Roos said, countering calls in Japan for the transfer of the Marines to Guam.

Roos cited China's military expansion and North Korea's nuclear and

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missile development. In this regard, he noted that the security environment of Japan is the same as that at the time the Berlin Wall collapsed in 1989 and is complex. He emphasized that the U.S. military presence in Japan is at a level needed to attain regional stability and deterrence.

Meanwhile, Roos also touched on the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, including the plan to relocate Futenma airfield, a U.S. military base in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture. "The Japanese and U.S. governments have arrived at the current plan as a result of holding discussions for over 10 years," he stressed. In addition, he also indicated a sense of wariness about calls for reviewing Japan's burden sharing of costs for the stationing of U.S. forces in Japan, which is called "omoiyari yosan" ("sympathy budget").

12) Japan, China still wide apart on perceptions of history; joint history research committee produces report

YOMIURI (Top play) (Excerpt)  
February 1, 2010

The Japan-China Joint History Research Committee (Japanese chair: University of Tokyo Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka), comprising academics from the two countries, released a report yesterday. Views on history, centering on the prewar period, remained wide apart, with the Japanese side's paper saying that the number of victims in the (1937) Nanjing Incident was no more than 200,000, while the Chinese paper indicated that more than 300,000 were killed. The announcement of a report on modern history since 1945 was postponed at the request of the Chinese side. The committee intends to launch the second phase of research by replacing some members. The project is expected to encounter difficulties.

13) NHK's Japanese-language program in China temporarily disrupted during report on history research

ASAHI (Page 1) (Full)  
February 1, 2010

Koichi Furuya, Beijing

A program on NHK's World Premium Japanese-language channel was disrupted for several tens of seconds in China during airing of news on Japan-China joint history research on the night of Jan. 31. The screen went black when images of the Tiananmen Incident were being aired after reports on the number of people killed during the Nanjing Incident and other matters. The screen eventually returned to normal to show the segment of the Japanese reporter's report in Japan.

14) Eight Hague Convention member countries urge FM to accede to international convention on child custody

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Full)  
January 31, 2010

The ambassadors of eight countries to Japan, including U.S. Ambassador John Roos, called on Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada at the ministry on Jan. 30 and urged Japan to swiftly accede to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction which specifies rules on resolving disputes concerning international marriage.

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"We must take steps toward resolving such conflicts in some way or another," Foreign Minister Okada said. "There are differences between the legal systems (of Japan and other countries)," Okada also said, seeking their understanding on the fact that the Japanese government requires some time to look into the matter.

15) Foreign Minister Okada: U.S., China will avoid decisive confrontation over arms trade

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)  
February 1, 2010

In reference to China's strong reaction against the U.S. government's decision to sell arms to Taiwan, Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada said on a TV Asahi program yesterday, "This event was within the predictable range for China. The United States and China will not confront each other decisively over it."

With regard to the triangular relationship among Japan, the U.S. and China, "Although the existence of China is important for Japan, the quality of our relationship with China is different from our relationship with the U.S., with which Japan concludes an alliance," stressing his stance of placing importance on Japan-U.S. ties.

16) DPJ heavyweights make statements touching on Ozawa's resignation

over fund-raising scandal

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Full)  
February 1, 2010

A number of influential politicians in the government and the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) who distance themselves from DPJ Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa made statements yesterday touching on the need for his resignation depending on developments in the case involving false donation statements by his fund-managing organization, Rikuzan-kai.

Delivering a speech at a meeting of his own group in Saitama City, former Policy Research Council chairman Yukio Edano indicated that Ozawa should take responsibility, including resigning, if he fails to fulfill his accountability. He said: "When the prosecutors complete their questioning for the criminal case, he should give a clear-cut explanation. In the event he cannot obtain public understanding, he should take responsibility."

Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Seiji Maehara also said at a party meeting in Kyoto: "If the case moves into a new phase, we must demonstrate that the party is capable of purifying itself." He thus hinted that he would urge Ozawa to resign depending on future developments.

Appearing on an NHK program, Senior Vice Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda emphasized: "Our ultimate goal is for the ruling coalition to win the upcoming House of Councillors election and establish a stable government. We will think about what we need to do to that end based on the circumstances."

17) Panel to delay submission of report on secret nuclear pacts again

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 3) (Full)

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February 1, 2010

An expert panel of the Foreign Ministry tasked with examining documents related to alleged four secret pacts between Japan and the U.S. decided in its sixth meeting yesterday to give up on compiling a report on its findings in February. The panel, chaired by Tokyo University Professor Shinichi Kitaoka, has decided to put together a report at an early date with the end of March as the deadline.

The late vice foreign minister Hisanari Yamada said (in 1981) that he had acknowledged that the U.S. was not obligated to hold consultations with Japan before U.S. military vessels carrying nuclear weapons make stopovers in Japan or pass through Japanese territory. Yamada was serving as vice foreign minister at the time when the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty was revised in 1960. The panel has discovered the existence of an audio tape containing a recorded interview in which the late bureaucrat testified on the secret pact. The panel has decided to ask Tokyo International University Professor Yoshihisa Hara, who held the interview with Yamada, to present the tape.

18) Government urges JAL to introduce Mitsubishi Regional Jet

NIKKEI (Page 1) (Excerpts)  
February 1, 2010

The government will soon start coordination to urge Japan Airlines Corp (JAL), which is currently under reconstruction, to consider using the Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ), the first domestically produced small aircraft. The aim is to support a project to develop jets domestically into which a huge amount of tax money will be injected. The government will call on JAL to incorporate the introduction of the MRJ in its reconstruction plan, for which the company aims to obtain approval this summer.

The Enterprise Turnaround Initiative Corporation of Japan decided on Jan. 19 on JAL's reconstruction plan, which includes a measure to replace its existing equipment with small-scale, energy-efficient

equipment. The plan specifies that the cash-strapped carrier should begin using 50 small jets and regional jets with 50 to 100 seats. The government's judgment is that the MRJ seating 70 to 90 passengers could be JAL's major next-generation small aircraft.

19) Japan's manned lunar exploration difficult if U.S. gives up on lunar probe plan

NIKKEI (Page 8) (Full)  
January 30, 2010

Japan worked out a space development program in June 2009, incorporating its own plan to carry out lunar exploration with the aid of an unmanned robot in 2020. Manned lunar exploration sending astronauts to the moon is said to cost over 1 trillion yen, so Japan has been looking into possibilities for an international project involving the United States. If the United States gives up on its lunar probe plan, it will be difficult for Japan to go ahead with its manned lunar exploration.

Meanwhile, the United States has decided to extend its current plan to use the International Space Station. In this case, the question is how to ensure a delivery method (after the space shuttle is retired from service). In September 2009, Japan for the first time

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lifted off the H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV), an unmanned delivery vehicle for one-time use only. However, there may be calls for taking steps toward developing Japan's own space plane.

20) Poll: 76 PERCENT urge Ozawa to quit from party post; Hatoyama cabinet's support rate at 50 PERCENT

MAINICHI (Top play) (Abridged)  
February 1, 2010

The Mainichi Shimbun conducted a public opinion survey across the nation on Jan. 30-31. In the survey, respondents were asked what they thought ruling Democratic Party of Japan Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa should do if Tomohiro Ishikawa, one of his former secretaries and currently a DPJ lawmaker seated in the House of Representatives, is prosecuted over a political fund scandal involving Ozawa's fund management organization. In response to this question, a total of 76 PERCENT answered that Ozawa should resign from his party post, with 18 PERCENT saying there is no need for him to resign. Meanwhile, the public approval rating for Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's cabinet was 50 PERCENT. The figure dropped 5 percentage points from the last survey conducted Dec. 19-20 but remained in the 50 PERCENT range. In addition, respondents were also asked about the 'politics-and-money' problem of Hatoyama, whose former secretary has been prosecuted over his fund management organization's falsification of political fund reports. In this case, however, those calling for his resignation accounted for only 33 PERCENT. The Ozawa problem apparently drove down the Hatoyama cabinet's support rate.

In the breakdown of public support for political parties, the DPJ stood at 30 PERCENT, down 5 points from the last survey. "None," or the proportion of those who do not support any political party, rose 6 points to 39 PERCENT. The two figures changed places for the first time since the Hatoyama cabinet came into office. The leading opposition Liberal Democratic Party leveled off at 16 PERCENT. This figure shows that the LDP has failed to absorb those distancing themselves from the DPJ and that the number of those with no particular party affiliation has increased.

Respondents were also asked which political party (and which political party's candidate) they would vote for in their proportional representation blocs if an election for the House of Councillors were to be held now. In this popularity ranking of political parties, the DPJ scored 35 PERCENT, while the LDP was at 20 PERCENT. Among other political parties, the Your Party was at 6 PERCENT, the New Komeito at 5 PERCENT, the Japanese Communist Party at 4 PERCENT, and the Social Democratic Party at 2 PERCENT.

ROOS